

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 15, 2005, the examiner rejected applicants' claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10-14 for alleged obviousness under 35 USC 103, based primarily upon the newly cited Hans reference, German Publication 3537449 A1. In addition, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10-12 were rejected for alleged indefiniteness under 35 USC 112, with respect to the phrase "can be circulated" appearing in claim 1 at line 19. The remaining claims 4-5, 8-9 and 15-24 were allowed.

The Section 112 Rejection

By this Response, independent claim 1 has been revised to address and resolve the new rejection for indefiniteness under Section 112. Specifically, as now presented, claims 1 includes the phrasing: "whereby coolant ~~can~~ be circulated through said coolant cavity in contact with said elongated bearing carrier ~~to remove~~ removes heat from the rotating assembly and anti-friction ball bearings". The objectionable "can be" terminology has been removed from the claim. Accordingly, as now presented, claim 1 is believed to be in full compliance with Section 112.

The Section 103 Rejections

Independent claim 1 has been further revised by this Response to incorporate important language from original as-filed dependent claim 9. In particular, claim 1 has been revised to recite the "outwardly projecting flange surfaces" on the elongated bearing carrier, in combination with adjacent "surfaces" on the stationary housing, wherein these bearing carrier "flange surfaces" and the adjacent "housing surfaces" cooperate to bear thrust loads of the rotating assembly.

Thus, as now presented, claim 1 represents a combination of original as-filed claims 1 and 2, and a portion of original as-filed claim 9. Applicants notes

that the examiner previously identified the presence of allowable subject matter in as-filed dependent claim 9 (see Office Action mailed March 29, 2005).

Applicants respectfully submit that the language as now presented in revised claim 1 differentiates clearly and patentably from the cited references. None of the cited references is believed to disclose or suggest applicants' claimed combination of an elongated bearing carrier supported by anti-friction ball bearings and elastic elements, wherein the bearing carrier further incorporates the claimed "outwardly projecting flange surfaces" for engaging stationary housing surfaces to bear thrust loads. Specifically, this combination of features is not present in the Hans (DE 3537449), Fischer (U.S. 6,425,743) or Sabini (U.S. 6,048,168) references, or in any other reference of record.

New claim 25 has been added by this Response, and depends from amended claim 1 as discussed above. New claim 25 recites the balance of the limitations from original claim 9, namely, the inclusion of an "anti-friction material" between the bearing carrier flange surfaces and the adjacent stationary housing surfaces.

Independent claim 13 has also been revised by this Response in a manner similar to claim 1, as discussed above. Specifically, claim 13 has been amended to incorporate some of the language from original as-filed claim 9, namely, to require the "elongated bearing carrier" to include "outwardly projecting flange surfaces", in combination with adjacent "surfaces" on the stationary housing, wherein these bearing carrier "flange surfaces" and the adjacent "housing surfaces" cooperate to bear thrust loads of the rotating assembly. The remaining language from original claim 9, namely, the recitation of the "anti-friction material" between the bearing carrier flange surfaces and the adjacent housing surfaces, has been incorporated into new related dependent claim 26.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 as now presented is clearly in condition for allowance for the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1 as now presented.

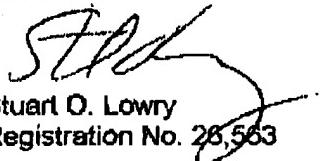
Conclusion

In conclusion, by this Response, independent claims 1 and 13 have been revised in a manner which is believed to be consistent with the substance of the examiner's prior indication of allowability directed to as-filed dependent claim 9. Thus, claims 1 and 13, together with their associated dependent claims 3, 6, 7, 10-12 and new claim 25 (depend from claim 1), and claims 14 and new claim 26 (depend from claim 13) are respectfully resubmitted for reconsideration and allowance.

A formal Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1 and 3-26 of this application is believed to be in order, and is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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